

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 71

By Ms. Fox of Boston, petition of Gloria L. Fox and others for legislation to establish a statewide voter registration database, voter education, and to expand the authority of local election district review commissions. Election Laws.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

Gloria Fox	Byron Rushing
Ellen Story	Patricia D. Jehlen
Dianne Wilkerson	Elizabeth A. Malia

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASE,  
VOTER EDUCATION, AND EXPAND THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL ELECTION  
DISTRICTS REVIEW COMMISSION.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 M.G.L. Chapter 9 is hereby amended by inserting after Sec-  
2 tion 9A, Section 9B which reads as follows:  
3 “The Secretary of State shall work with the local election dis-  
4 tricts review commission to develop and maintain an online  
5 statewide voter registration database that local election districts  
6 must use. The local election districts review commission will des-  
7 ignate procedures for adding, maintaining, and removing names of  
8 voters from the database. The local election districts review com-  
9 mission in conjunction with the Secretary of State will adopt pro-  
10 cedures that will provide for uniformity and accuracy in the  
11 composition and operation of the database. The database must  
12 include, at a minimum, each voter’s name, address, date of birth,  
13 gender, party affiliation if applicable, precinct, ward, county, leg-  
14 islative, and congressional district. No privately collected data-  
15 base and no private company may be used to purge voters from  
16 the statewide voter registration database. The local election districts

17 review commission will adopt regulations prescribing minimum  
18 standards for nonpartisan voter education. Working with commu-  
19 nity organizations and leaders, each local election district will  
20 implement the minimum voter education standards, and will con-  
21 duct additional nonpartisan education efforts as necessary to  
22 ensure that voters have a working knowledge of the voting  
23 process. The minimum voter education standards will address, but  
24 not be limited to: voter registration; balloting procedures, absentee  
25 ballots and polling place; voter rights and responsibilities; distrib-  
26 ution of sample ballots; and public service announcements. The  
27 local election districts review commission will conduct a study of  
28 the administration of elections to: determine whether state elec-  
29 tions laws and regulation were followed in the prior election  
30 cycle, and if not, why they were not followed; determine whether  
31 current election procedures are fair and appropriate; determine the  
32 number and percentage of over votes and under votes in the prior  
33 election, along with the reasons for these over votes and under  
34 votes, and other information as may be used in evaluating the per-  
35 formance of state voting systems, and identifying problems with  
36 ballot design and instructions which may have contributed to over  
37 votes and under votes; determine whether precincts have adequate  
38 facilities for the number of voters served; examine what election  
39 practices or proposals increase or diminish voter participation;  
40 and recommend how election procedures can and should be  
41 improved. The commission shall report its findings and recom-  
42 mendations to the legislature on or before February first following  
43 each general election.”